

# MONTANA SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

2015 Annual Report



[opi.mt.gov](http://opi.mt.gov)

Montana  
**Office of Public Instruction**  
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

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# Office of Public Instruction

## School Nutrition Programs

### Introduction

The School Nutrition Programs unit is administered through the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) Health Enhancement and Safety Division. The School Nutrition Programs service for schools include administration of the eight U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs:

- ✓ National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- ✓ School Breakfast Program (SBP)
- ✓ Afterschool Snack Program
- ✓ Special Milk Program
- ✓ Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)
- ✓ USDA Food Distribution Program (including the Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program)
- ✓ Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
- ✓ Montana Team Nutrition Program

School Nutrition Programs reimburse schools for meals served to children; distribute USDA Foods for school meal and summer programs; provide educational workshops for school food service personnel, administrators, and teachers; ensure that schools are in compliance with federal regulations; and provide nutrition education for students to promote healthful habits.

Sponsors choose which programs to participate in based on local needs. Sponsors include public schools, private/nonpublic schools, nonprofit residential child care institutions, government agencies, public or private nonprofit organizations and camps.

### Vision

Our vision is school communities that provide children full access to healthful meals and snacks that nourish minds and bodies and school nutrition environments that encourage healthful lifestyles and are supported by community partnerships.

### Mission

To ensure that schools provide nutritious meals and promote healthy lifestyles through collaborative education and training, and administration of the USDA's School Nutrition Programs.

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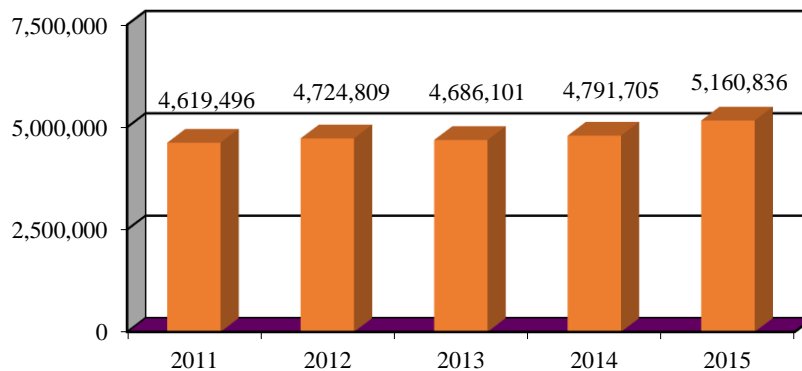


**Montana Team Nutrition Program**  
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# SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

More than 5.1 million breakfast meals were served during the 2015 school year (28,671 each day).  
19 percent of the 150,656 eligible students eat breakfast at school.

**Breakfast Meals**



The **School Breakfast Program** makes it possible for school children to start the day with a nutritious meal at school. Eighty-seven percent of schools that serve lunch also serve breakfast.

## Expanding School Breakfast



Montana has several school breakfast advocates.

Governor Steve Bullock and First Lady Lisa Bullock promoted breakfast through the *Breakfast after the Bell Initiative* and the *First Lady School Breakfast Participation Awards*.

No Kid Hungry provided AmeriCorps members in local communities to market and promote breakfast through alternative service models and also funded mini-grants for breakfast expansion.

Montana Food Bank Network published the *Annual School Breakfast Report Card* and developed educational materials such as the *Guide to Alternative School Breakfast*.

## ACCESS TO MEALS

Montana led the nation in 2015 with 80 percent of school districts adopting **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)**.

CEP allows school districts in high need areas to offer meals to all students at no cost. Adoption of this provision increased breakfast participation at CEP schools by 25 percent.

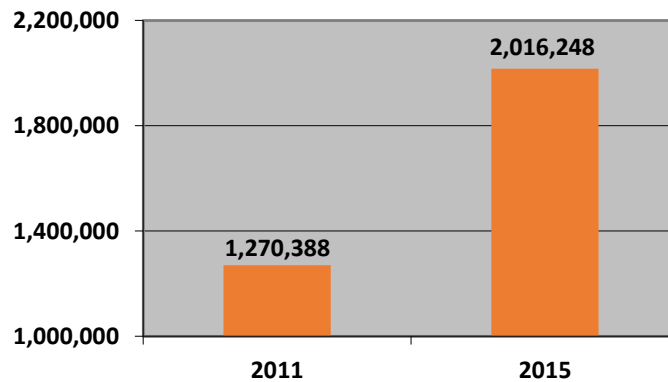
Montana's success with CEP adoption is a result of improved direct certification software systems. Students who receive food assistance from other state agencies are directly certified for a free meal at school without further application.

Montana achieved a 93 percent direct certification rate in 2015, which removed barriers for students to receive free meals.

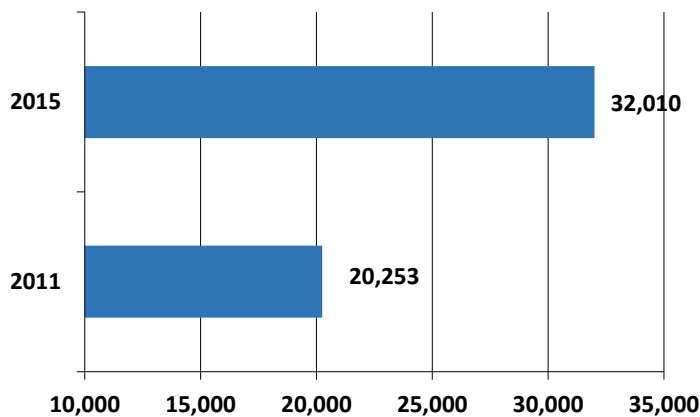
# FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM

Montana received over \$2 million to operate the FFVP Program in 2015. Funding and participation have increased by 36 percent in the last five years.

## Funding



## Enrollment



The FFVP was successfully implemented in 170 schools in 2015, seven more schools than in 2014.

## ACCESS TO FFVP

The **Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)** introduces children to fresh fruits and vegetables and helps them learn more healthful eating habits.

How are schools selected?

- Elementary school
- National School Lunch Program participant
- Schools with the highest percentage of free and reduced students are given priority
- Total enrollment of all schools must result in \$50-75 per student allocation each year



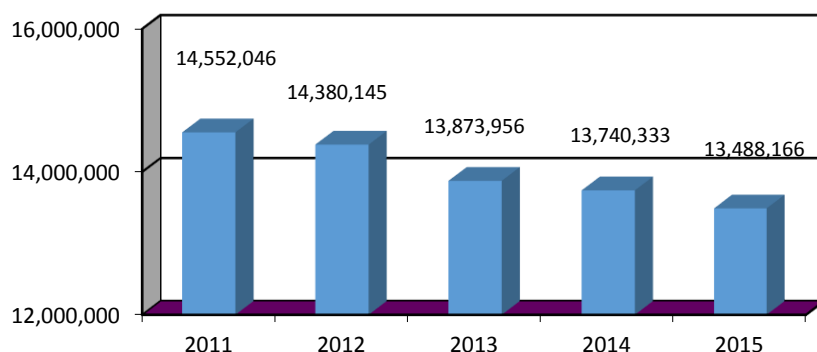
**\$57.36**

for every student in **2015**

# NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Nearly 13.5 million lunch meals were served during the 2015 school year.  
43 percent of Montana students qualify for free and reduced meals.

**Lunch Meals**



The National School Lunch Program provides a meal to students during lunch periods at school. An average 749,341 meals were served each day, and 257 districts (821 schools) participated in 2015.

The Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 implemented new nutrition standards and, as with any change, challenges are expected. Lunch meals have decreased 1.8 percent in the last year and 7.3 percent since 2010. However the number of lunch meals served in 2015 remain comparable to the 2005 school year (13,790,345).

The **OPI Cooperative Purchase Program** assists schools with purchasing foods that meet nutrition standards and are competitive prices from food distributors.

All schools receive items at the same price regardless of size or location. There are two bids a year and four deliveries per bid.

Schools spent \$1,183,550 in the fall bid and \$1,143,196 in the winter bid.



**OPI COOPERATIVE  
PURCHASE PROGRAM**

## ACCESS TO FOOD



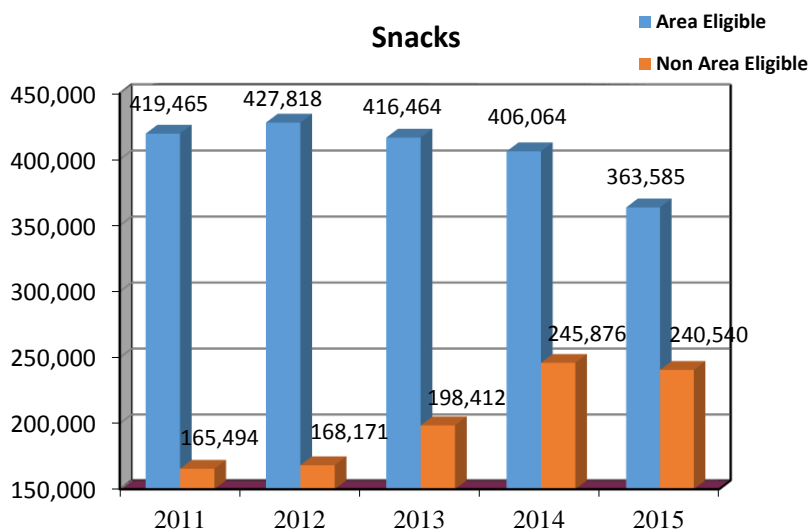
The **USDA Food Distribution Program (USDA Foods)** supplies 15 to 20 percent of school nutrition program food. Schools received an entitlement of 24.75 cents for each lunch served during the previous school year.

Statewide entitlement in 2015 totaled \$4,129,455.

A portion of this total is set aside for schools to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables through the **Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program**. During the 2015 school year, Montana schools spent \$588,929 on fresh fruits and vegetables.

# AFTER SCHOOL SNACK PROGRAM

Over 600,000 snacks were served during the 2015 school year.



After school programs can choose to offer children a snack through the OPI School Nutrition Program or the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), which is administered through the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

CACFP has the ability to offer after school programs reimbursement for a snack and a supper meal, which has allowed programs to provide extended hours of operation and services to children.

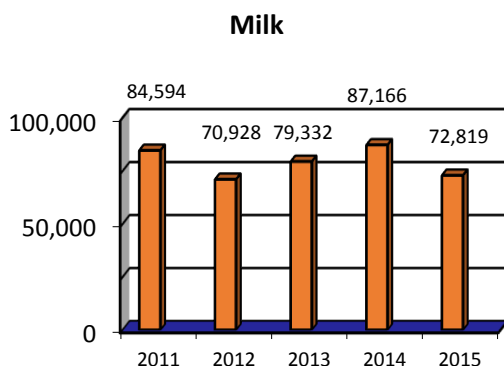
Snacks served through OPI School Nutrition Programs have decreased 7 percent from last year as more programs have implemented CACFP supper programs.

## ACCESS TO FOOD

The **Afterschool Snack Program** offers snacks to children actively engaged in education and enrichment activities after the end of the school day.

Schools in which 50 percent of the students qualify for free and reduced-price lunches are considered area eligible and students qualify for free snacks.

## SPECIAL MILK PROGRAM

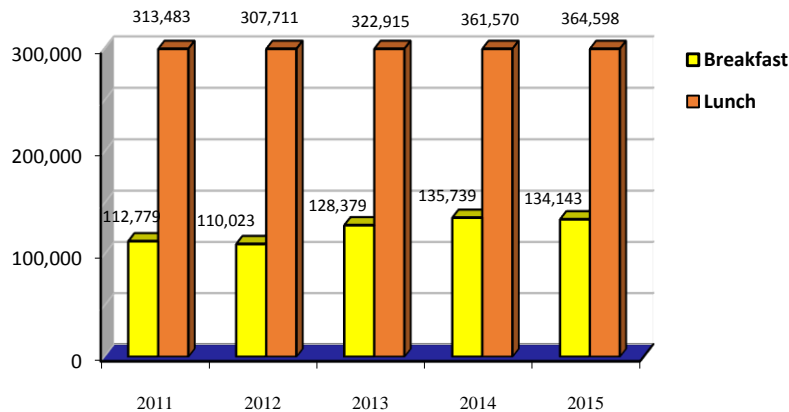


Schools that do not offer other school meal programs or kindergarten students who do not have access to meals at school may participate in the **Special Milk Program**.

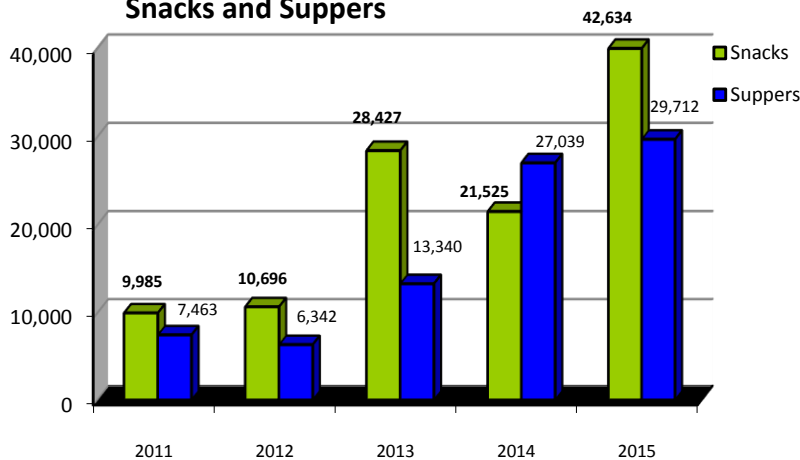
# SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

An additional 25,214 meals were served in 2015.

## Breakfasts and Lunches



## Snacks and Suppers



**49.5% increase** in the number of **snacks** served.

State level partnerships have helped the Summer Food Service Program grow.

[Montana Food Bank Network](#) creates advertising materials to help children find summer food sites and [Montana No Kid Hungry](#) sponsors grants and AmeriCorps members.

## ACCESS TO FOOD

The **Summer Food Service Program** provides nutritious meals at no cost to children while school is not in session.



One hundred ninety-six sites operated in low-income areas:

- 91 total sponsors
- 4 new sponsors

## Fun in the Sun Summer Food Summit 2015

Sponsors gather to learn and discuss ways to grow their summer food programs through fun site activities and innovative marketing strategies.





# MONTANA TEAM NUTRITION

Cafeteria, classroom, and community initiatives focus on the consistency of educational messages.



## School Wellness and Quality Meals

- 2015 School Wellness in Action Mini-Grants (\$16,000) awarded to eight school districts to support healthier school environment policies.
- Thirteen schools (in three school districts) received a HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) Award for meeting meal pattern, nutrition education, and physical activity criteria.
- An online School Wellness Policy Assessment Survey was developed to assist wellness committees with implementation plans.
- Three School Wellness Coaches (Billings, Kalispell, and Missoula) provided nutrition consultation to early childhood programs and school districts.
- Ten regional or statewide presentations on the USDA's school wellness policy or *Smart Snack* rule to school staff and community partners.
- Five *Build a Rainbow on Your Tray* and *Montana Cook Fresh* workshops teaching USDA's meal pattern with culinary skills.
- Promoted Principles of Pleasant and Positive Mealtimes ([www.opi.mt.gov/pleasantmealtimes](http://www.opi.mt.gov/pleasantmealtimes)) through Recess before Lunch workshops to school and early childhood program staff. Cosponsored (with Montana Child and Adult Care Food Program) two *Helping Children Eat and Grow Well* workshops (Ellyn Satter and Associates).
- Seven *Smarter Lunchrooms Movement* ([www.smarterlunchrooms.org](http://www.smarterlunchrooms.org)) workshops and a Smarter Lunchroom High School Pilot Project (five schools) to see how the principles impact meal participation and plate waste. Results show plate waste of fruits and vegetables decreased while consumption increased; and student participation improved.
- One food safety workshop on School Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point to food service staff.

## GRANTS



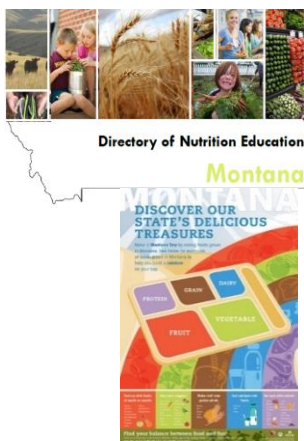
**Team Nutrition** is a USDA competitive grant focused on improving children's lifelong eating and physical activity habits by integrating principles of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and USDA's My Plate into comprehensive, behavior-based education.

**Montana Team Nutrition Program.** provides professional development and technical assistance to staff at school and child care facilities.



# MONTANA TEAM NUTRITION

Cafeteria, classroom, and community initiatives focus on the consistency of educational messages.



## Nutrition Education for Children

- Promoted the statewide [\*Nutrition Education for Youth and Families Directory\*](#).
- *Discover Montana's Treasures* elementary curriculum and poster (grades 2-5) highlights Montana made foods.

## [Farm to School](#)

- Eleven schools pilot tested *Montana Harvest of the Month*, a 10-month nutrition education program connecting the cafeteria to the classroom.



- Lead a *National Farm to School Month* statewide campaign in October and the *Montana Crunch Time* celebration of Food Day on October 24, 2014. The event reached 20,000 students through fun educational facts and enjoyment of a Montana or regional apple.
- Collaborated with the National Center of Appropriate Technology on initiatives and supported ten MT FoodCorps service members with school wellness and nutrition education policies.
- State liaison to the National Farm to School Network, and facilitated the *Montana Farm to School Leadership Team* to strengthen support for Farm to School as a successful strategy of improving children's health.

## Ending Childhood Hunger and Reducing Childhood Obesity

- Leadership and resources to statewide and local organizations.
- Contributed nutrition education data to the *10 Step Plan to End Childhood Hunger in Montana (2010-2020)*.



## GRANTS

**Montana Farm to School** focuses on local food procurement practices, garden-based nutrition education and community connections with agricultural partners.

Thirty-eight percent of Montana Schools engage in Farm to School activities.



## Moving Forward

**2016 Montana Farm to School Summit: Sprouting Success** conference is slated for September 22-23, 2016, at Montana State University in Bozeman.

## FUNDING AND REIMBURSEMENT

Montana School Nutrition Programs	
<i>July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015</i>	
<u>Income</u>	
National School Lunch Program Meals	\$25,816,242
Afterschool Snacks	\$392,549
USDA Foods Entitlement	\$4,129,455
<b>National School Lunch Program (lunches, snacks and commodities)</b>	<b>\$30,338,246</b>
<b>School Breakfast Program</b>	<b>\$7,922,419</b>
<b>Special Milk Program</b>	<b>\$16,974</b>
<b>Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program</b>	<b>\$2,016,248</b>
<b>Summer Food Service Program</b>	<b>\$1,797,383</b>
<b>Total Federal Funding</b>	<b>\$42,091,270</b>
<b>Total State Matching Funds</b>	<b>\$663,861</b>
<b>Total Federal and State Funding</b>	<b>\$42,755,131</b>
<u>Expenditures</u>	
School Expenditures (food, labor, other)	\$54,971,865
Federal and State Reimbursement	\$42,755,131
Student, Adult Payments, General Fund, Other Sources	\$12,216,734